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ICTINIA MISSISSIPPIENSIS AND ÆGIALITIS NIVOSA, NESTING IN  
SOUTH-CENTRAL KANSAS.

BY N. S. GOSS.

While collecting in the State, I found, May 9th, 1887, quite a number of the Mississippi Kites sailing over and into the timber skirting the Medicine river, near Sun City, Barber county, and from their actions knew that they were mating, and upon their breeding-grounds—a lucky find, one worth following up. On the 11th I noticed several of the birds with sticks in their bills, (green twigs in leaf,) flying aimlessly about, as if undecided where to place them, keeping hidden within the trees as much as possible, dropping the sticks when from fright or other cause they rose much above the tree-tops. I however succeeded in tracing one of the birds to an old nest in the forks of a cottonwood. Having thus located the birds, and knowing it must be some time before they would begin to lay, I left for the salt plains on the Cimarron river in southwestern Comanche county, and in the Indian Territory, where I found the Snowy Plover quite abundant. (See *The Auk*, vol. 3, No. 3, p. 409, in regard to finding the birds nesting in the same vicinity, last season.) I returned to the Kites on the 16th, and remained watching the birds until the morning of the 22d, at which time the nests found, seven in number, appeared to be completed, and I saw a pair of the birds in the act of copulation. A business matter called me home, and I hired the man with whom I stopped to climb the trees on the 28th for the eggs, but a hail-storm on the 25th injured the nests badly, and in one case beat the nest out of the tree. On the 31st he collected four sets of two eggs each, and one with only one egg. It being a hard tree to climb, he decided to take the egg rather than to wait to see if the bird would lay more. Not hearing from him, I returned to the grounds June 10th, and put in the day examining the nests, etc., collecting two more sets of two eggs each, one of the sets nearly ready to hatch, but with care was able to save it. The eggs are all white, or rather, bluish white, without markings, or shell stains. It having rained nearly every day since the commencement of the month, the last two sets collected are somewhat soiled and stained by the wet leaves in the nests. The eggs measured by sets as follows, viz.: First, 1.55x1.33, 1.52x1.36; second, 1.76x1.48, 1.65x1.35; third, 1.70x1.39, 1.56x1.35; fourth, 1.70x1.37, 1.68x1.30; fifth, 1.75x1.30; sixth, 1.54x1.31, 1.45x1.24; seventh, 1.70x1.38, 1.68x1.43.

The old nests had a few leaves for lining in addition to the leaves attached to the twigs used in repairing the same, but the new ones appeared to be without additional leaves. They were all built either in the forks from the main body, or in the forks of the larger limbs of the cottonwood and elm trees, and were at least from ten to a hundred rods apart, were not bulky, and when old would be taken for the nests of the common crow. They ranged in height from twenty-five to fifty feet from the ground.

## FEEDING HABITS OF PELECANUS ERYTHORHYNCHOS.

BY N. S. GOSS.

Naturalists who have not seen the White Pelicans upon their feeding-grounds have without doubt read Audubon's interesting description of the manner in which the birds unite and drive the fishes into shallow water where they can catch them, which they cannot well do in deep water, as the flesh side of their skins is honey-